

5. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 10 %.
6. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 2 to about 8 %.
7. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 3 to about 4 %.
8. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the hydroquinone is present in about 4%.
9. (original) The composition of claim 1 further comprising a water-soluble antioxidant.
10. (original) The composition of claim 9 wherein the antioxidant comprises a sulfite.
11. (original) The composition of claim 9 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite.
12. (original) The composition of claim 11 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05%.
13. (original) The composition of claim 11 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present at about 0.05% to about 0.5%.
14. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises an inorganic salt.
15. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
16. (original) The composition of claim 15 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.1%.
17. (original) The composition of claim 15 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 3%.
18. (original) The composition of claim 15 wherein the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present at about 0.25 to about 1%.

19. (original) The composition of claim 9 wherein the antioxidant comprises sodium metabisulfite and the cationic salt comprises magnesium ascorbyl phosphate.
20. (original) The composition of claim 19 wherein the sodium metabisulfite is present in at least about 0.05% and the magnesium ascorbyl phosphate is present in at least about 0.5%.
21. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises an amino acyl derivative.
22. (original) The composition of claim 21 wherein the cationic salt comprises aminopropyl ascorbyl phosphate.
23. (original) The composition of claim 1 wherein the cationic salt comprises a sodium ascorbyl phosphate.
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Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has restricted the claims in this application to six (6) groups. Group I includes claims 1 to 23, Group II includes claims 24 to 53, Group III includes claims 54 to 76, Group IV includes 77 to 105, Group V includes claim 106, and Group VI (incorrectly set forth in the Office Action and corrected in a phonecall to the Examiner) includes claims 107 to 116.

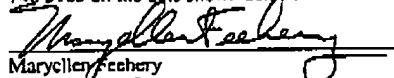
Applicant elects Group I (claims 1 to 23). Groups II to VI (claims 24 to 116) are hereby withdrawn without prejudice and without conceding to the Examiner's characterizations, for reasons unrelated to patentability. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute Claims 24 to 116 in separate divisional applications.

CONCLUSION

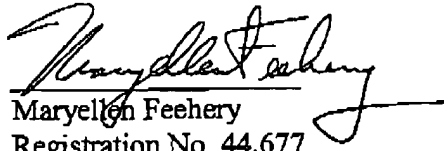
Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant does not believe any additional fee is required for this Response and Request for Reconsideration, however, in the event any additional fee is required or any overpayment credit is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0586.

I hereby certify that this paper and the papers referred to herein as being transmitted, submitted, or enclosed herewith in connection with U.S. Serial No. 09/864,083 is/are being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office fax number 703 746 3165 on the date shown below.


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April 1, 2003
Date of Facsimile Transmission

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